

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DAVID J. CATANZARO,
286 Upper Powderly Street
Carbondale, Pennsylvania 18407

Plaintiff,

VS.

RITE AID CORPORATION, INC.,
MICHAELS STORES, INC.,
ANIMAL ADVENTURE, LLC,
and DOES 1 THROUGH 50

Defendant.

CASE NO. 3:15-cv-00524

JUDGE MALACHY E MANNION

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

FILED
SCRANTON

MAY - 8 2015

Per 
DEPUTY CLERK

PLAINTIFF'S VERIFIED FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff, David J. Catanzaro ("Plaintiff" or "Mr. Catanzaro"), complains of Rite Aid Corporation ("Rite Aid"), Michaels Stores, LLC ("Michaels"), Animal Adventure, LLC (Animal Adventure) as follows:

I. JURISDICTION.

1. This is a claim for patent infringement under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code. This Court and other federal district courts have exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case under 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a).

II. VENUE.

2. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) and (c) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred. Further, venue is proper as to each defendant under 28 U.S.C. §1400(b).

III. PARTIES.

3. Plaintiff currently resides at 286 Upper Powderly Street, Carbondale, Pennsylvania 18407. Plaintiff is the owner of United States Patent No. 7,653,959 B1 (the “959 patent”), entitled “Article Assembly,” that issued on February 2, 2010. Plaintiff has the sole right to sue for infringement of said patent. A copy of the ‘959 patent is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

4. Upon information and belief, Defendant Rite Aid is a Pennsylvania company with its principal place of business at 30 Hunter Lane Camp Hill, PA 17011

5. Upon information and belief, Defendant Michaels is a Texas company with its principal place of business at 8000 Bent Branch Dr (Mesquite Bend Dr), Irving, TX 75063

6. Upon information and belief, Defendant Animal Adventure is a Minnesota Company with its principal place of business at 1114 5th St South Hopkins, MN 55343

7. Plaintiff does not know the true identities of fictitious Defendants Does 1 through 50, but reserves the right to amend this complaint to add said defendants upon discovery of their true identities.

8. This court has personal jurisdiction over the named Defendant.

IV. RELEVANT MATTER

7. The ‘959 patent is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,026,532 (the ‘532 patent”) which was assigned to the Church & Dwight Co. on February 28, 2011, as part of a settlement agreement during a patent infringement lawsuit (*David Catanzaro v. Procter & Gamble Co. et al.*)

8. The ‘959 patent contained a Terminal Disclaimer whereby the Disclaimer stated that joint ownership of the ‘532 and ‘959 patent was required for the ‘959 patent to be enforceable.

9. Plaintiff believes evidence in his possession supports that Church & Dwight allowed the ‘532 patent to expire intentionally in February, 2012 for lack of paying the required maintenance fee.

10. Plaintiff filed a legal malpractice case in the Northern District of Ohio on May 2, 2013 against the attorneys who represented Plaintiff in the *Procter & Gamble Co. et al.* lawsuit (Case No. 1:13 CV 996 *Catanzaro vs. Seamon Garson et al.*).

11. Within the pleadings of the above stated malpractice case Plaintiff alleged that he was induced to enter into a Patent Purchases, Settlement Agreement which caused Plaintiff to alienate his interest in the ‘532 patent and to give up his interest in the ‘959 patent.

12. Defendants maintained that the '959 patent is still enforceable, and that Plaintiff did not lose the right to enforce the '959 patent as a direct result of the expiration of the '532 patent whereby rendering the common ownership requirement of the Terminal Disclaimer a non-issue and no longer "offended."

13. After near 20 months of litigation, Judge Dan A. Polster presiding Judge in the legal malpractice case, issued an order on December 15, 2014 (hereto as **Exhibit B**) stating that the court cannot issue an advisory opinion on the enforceability or unenforceability of the '959 patent and demanded that a judicial determination or order must be made within the context of a Patent infringement lawsuit.

15. Judge Dan A. Polster dismissed the case without prejudice and tolled the statute of limitations until there is a final judgment in a patent infringement litigation involving the '959 patent.

16. As a direct result of information exchanged and obtained in the malpractice lawsuit, along with the directed order imposed by Judge Polster to obtain a final order in an infringement action to know for certain the current status of the '959 patent, Plaintiff has 'sufficient reason and belief' to presently assert that the '959 patent is enforceable and that the Terminal Disclaimer is a non-issue.

V. CLAIMS.

COUNT I – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

17. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 16, inclusive.

18. An actual, present and justiciable controversy has arisen between Plaintiff and Defendant's regarding the '959 patent.

19. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, *et seq.*, Plaintiff seeks declaratory judgment from this Court that Defendant has infringed upon the '959 patent.

COUNT 2 – PATENT INFRINGEMENT

20. Defendants transacts business in this judicial district related to the '959 patent, without a license or permission from plaintiff. Defendants have infringed, induced others to infringe, and/or contributorily infringed, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, one or more claims of the '959 patent. Defendants did so by manufacturing, having manufactured, importing, using, offering for sale and/or selling products that embody and/or practice the patented invention, known as Easter "Hopping Bunnys" or Easter "Wind-Up Bunnys" and "Hopping or Wind- up Chicks" and assorted product lines.

21. Defendants transacts business in this judicial district and has committed acts of infringement in this judicial district by offering for sale and selling the above stated product line on and after February 2, 2010.

23. Plaintiff seeks damages for patent infringement against Defendants for the maximum period of time permitted by law.

24. Defendants have directly or equivalently infringed claims 1, 4, 5 & 8 of the '959 patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(a). Upon information and belief, Defendants have also infringed claims 1, 4, 5 & 8 of the '959 patent by knowingly and actively inducing others to infringe in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b).

25. Upon information and belief, Defendants infringement of the '959 patent have been willful and deliberate. Defendants infringement has injured plaintiff.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, David J. Catanzaro, respectfully requests that this Court enter Judgment against Defendants and against their subsidiaries, successors, parents, affiliates, directors, agents, servants, employees, and all persons in active concert or participation with them, granting the following relief:

- A. Issue a declaratory judgment stating Defendants has infringed the '959 patent;
- B. Order an award of damages adequate to compensate Plaintiff for the infringement that has occurred, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty as permitted by 35 U.S.C. § 284, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- C. Issue a finding that Defendants acts of infringement have been willful and ordering an award of increased damages as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- D. Order Defendants to pay plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees and costs of this action; and,
- E. Order such other relief that Plaintiff is entitled to under law and any other further relief that this Court or jury may deem just and proper.

VII. JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues presented in this complaint.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Catanzaro
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